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Message Text

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TO DEPT OF JUSTICE
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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 047741

FBI FOR WANNALL

FOLLOWING REPEAT BELGRADE 1205 ACTION SECSTATE INFO BONN FRANKFURT MOSCOW ZAGREB 23 FEB

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BELGRADE 1205

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, GW, YO
SUBJECT: REACTION TO ASSASSINATION OF YUGOSLAV CONSUL IN GERMANY

1. SUMMARY: THE ASSASSINATION OF CONSUL EDVIN ZDOVC IN FRANKFURT ON FEB 7 HAS PRODUCED A STRIDENT REACTION IN YUGOSLAVIA. PRESS HAS CARRIED NUMEROUS PROTESTS ISSUED BY YUGOSLAV ORGANIZATION HERE AND ABROAD, CONDOLENCE MESSAGES FROM SENIOR GOY OFFICIALS, AND BITING EDITORIALS CALLING ON FRG TO TAKE EFFECTIVE ACTION AGAINST TERRORISTS AND ALL RIGHT-WING EMIGRES AND ACCUSING IT OF BAD FAITH AND OFFICIAL COMPLICITY. WE CAN EXPECT SIMILAR REACTION IN EVENT OF FATAL ATTACK IN US. ONE ARTICLE ALREADY MENTIONS US AMONG COUNTRIES WHERE "CERTAIN" AUTHORITIES SUPPORT EXTREMISTS. END SUMMARY
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2. PROMINENT AMONG MESSAGES OF CONDOLENCE TO ZDOVC FAMILY WAS A TELEGRAM FROM INTERIOR SECRETARY HERLJEVIC, WHO ESTABLISHED COOPERATIVE RELATIONSHIP WITH GERMAN POLICE DURING VISIT TO THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC LATE LAST YEAR. TELEGRAM SAID THAT THE MURDER "HIT US PARTICULARLY HARD AFTER THE ASSURANCES OF THE MOST RESPONSIBLE LEADERS OF THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS ORGANS OF THE FR GERMANY THAT THEY WOULD PREVENT (SUCH) CRIMINAL ACTS."

3. PUBLIC STATEMENT ISSUED BY FEDERAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (CABINET) SAID THAT THE KILLING "SHOWS THAT THE ACTIVITY OF EXTREMIST FASCIST-TERRORIST GROUPS HAS NOT BEEN PREVENTED IN THE FRG THAT IT WILL TAKE EFFECTIVE MEASURES." THE FEC EXPECTS "URGENT, ENERGETIC AND PERSISTENT MEASURES TO PREVENT TERRORIST ACTIVITIES BY FASCIST GROUPS ONCE AND FOR ALL."

4. SEVERAL EDITORIALS HAVE REPEATED SIMILAR THEMES. WEEKLY NEWS MAGAZINE "NIN" SAYS THAT "EXPERESSIONS OF CONDOLENCE AND PROMISES THAT THE PERPETRATORS WILL BE CAPTURED AND PUNISHED ARE NO LONGER ENOUGH." TWO WEEKS AFTER THE CRIME, THE BELGRADE DAILY "BORBA" WRITES, "IT IS A QUESTION NOT ONLY OF JUSTICE THAT IS LATE WITHOUT JUSTIFICATION... BUT ALSO OF THE ATTITUDE OF CERTAIN LEADERS OF WEST GERMANY TOWARDS THE SOURCES OF ANTI-YUGOSLAV TERRORISM..."

5. THE ZAGREB NEWSPAPER "VJESNIK" LEKEWISE GOES BEYOND EXPRESSING DISAPPOINTMENT WITH PROTECTIVE MEASURES TO CHARGE OFFICIALS IN BOTH WEST AND EAST WITH COMPLICITY IN TERRORIST ACTIVITIES. REVIEWING THE HISTORY OF EMIGRE TERRORISM IN GERMANY THE AUTHOR (DJORDJE LICINA) CONCLUDES THAT ITS INCREASE IS DUE ABOVE ALL "TO THE INCONCEIVABLE BENEVOLENCE AND INEXPLICABLE TOLERANCE OF COMPETENT AUTHORITIES." HE DESCRIBES NOT ONLY THE FRG BUT ALSO FRANCE, AUSTRALIA, THE U.S. AND "CERTAIN OTHER COUNTRIES" AS PLACES "WHERE USTASHI TERRORISTS AND CHETNIK EXTERMISTS ENJOY SUPPORT, NOT ONLY ON THE PART OF CERTAIN POLICE FUNCTIONARIES BUT ALSO ON THE PART OF CERTAIN POLITICIANS." THE WRITER CHARGES THAT EXTREMIST CONFIDENTIAL

EMIGRES ARE BEING SUPPORTED "BY WESTERN AND EASTERN INTELLIGENCE SERVICES" IN ATTEMPTING TO OVERTHROW THE POLITICAL AND SOCIAL SYSTEM OF YUGOSLAVIA. HE CONCLUDES THE SERIES BY QUESTIONING THE SINCERITY OF "SEVERAL EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS" WHICH STATE THAT THEY DESIRE AN INDEPENDENT, STABLE AND UNITED YUGOSLAVIA BUT CONTINUE TO PERMIT EMIGRE CONSPIRACIES ON THEIR SOIL.

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6. ACCORDING TO GERMAN DIPLOMAT HERE,
EMBASSY EXPECTED AND RECEIVED SHARP OFFICIAL PROTEST FROM
FSFA. AMBASSADOR WAS ALSO CALLED IN BY INTERIOR SECRETARY
TO RECEIVE A PROTEST, DIPLOMAT SAID. KILLING WILL SPEED
IMPLEMENTATION OF COOPERATION BETWEEN YUGOSLAV AND
GERMAN POLICE WHICH HAD BEEN AGREED UPON EARLIER.
YUGOSLAVS HAVE BEEN EAGER FOR EVEN GREATER COOPERATION,
BUT GERMANS ARE RELUCTANT TO GO TOO FAR. YUGOSLAVS
HAVE LONG SOUGHT NOT ONLY REPRESSION OF EMIGRE TERRORISM
BUT ALSO CRACKDOWN ON ALL HOSTILE POLITICAL ACTIVITY,
WHICH IS IMPOSSIBLE UNDER GERMAN LAW. TO DATE, SHARPNESS
OF PROTESTS HAS NOT ADVERSELY AFFECTED
OTHER ASPECTS OF RELATIONS. SOURCE SAID CONFIDENTIALLY,
HOWEVER, THAT SOME GERMAN DIPLOMATS HERE HAD RECEIVED
THREATENING LETTERS, WHICH ARE BEING TREATED SERIOUSLY.

7. COMMENT. ZDOVC KILLING IS ANOTHER REMINDER OF DANGER
FOR TERRORISM WHICH YUGOSLAV DIPLOMATS FACE. GOY IS NOT
ENTIRELY BLAMELESS. IT MAINTAINS DOUBLE MORAL STANDARD
DEPENDING ON POLITICAL SYMPATHIES OF TERRORISTS. IT
ALSO ENGAGES IN UNDERGROUND WAR WITH EMIGRES, AND GERMANS
BELIEVE ZDOVC HIMSELF WAS INTELLIGENCE OFFICER. GOY IS
USING ZDOVC KILLING TO TRY TO FORCE ACTION AGAINST
ALL POLITICAL OPPONENTS-- BOTH VIOLENT AND NON-VIOLENT.
NEIGTHER GERMANS NOR WE WANT TO DO THAT.

8. NEVERTHELESS, ACTION AGSINST EMIGRE TERRORISTS
REMAINS UNQUESTIONED LEGAL AND MORAL OBLIGATION FOR BOTH
GERMANS AND US. FATAL INCIDENT IN US WOULD LIKELY PRODUCE
SAME REACTION AS ZDOVC KILLING AND WOULD INTERFERE WITH
OTHER ASPECTS OF RELATIONS. CHARGE THAT WE TALK OF ACTION
BUT DO LITTLE AGAINST TERRORISTS WOULD PARTICULARLY
STING IN VIEW OF FAILURE TO ARREST PERPETRATORS OF RECENT
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ATTACKS IN US.
SWEITZER UNQUOE INGERSOLL

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